

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: K. Leitch et al.

Docket No.: M02A233

Serial No: 10/670,848

Filed: September 25, 2003

For: HIGH PRESSURE CO₂ PURIFICATION AND SUPPLY SYSTEM

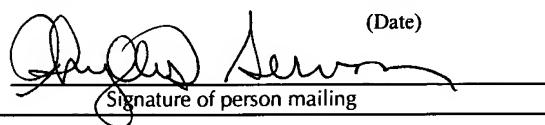
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Sir:

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE (37 C.F.R. § 1.104 (e))

Applicant(s) in the case above understand that according to 37 C.F.R. § 1.104 (e), if the Examiner believes the record of prosecution as a whole does not make clear his or reasons for allowing a claim or claims, the Examiner may set forth such reasoning, (emphasis added). Applicant(s) submit that the record as a whole in the present case speaks for itself and requires no issuance of the Examiner's Reason for Allowance. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that any reason for allowance promulgated by the Examiner is not to impart any negative inferences or otherwise limit the scope of the allowed claims.

MPEP 1302.14 states in part that the setting forth of reasons for allowance is not mandatory on the Examiner's part. This section further notes that in general, the Examiner's actions and the applicants replies make evident the Reasons for Allowance, satisfying "the record as a whole" proviso of the Rule. Applicants respectfully submit that such is the case with the present application, particularly as the applicants have fully complied with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 (b) and (c), making the reasons for allowance evident from the official record.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: March 2, 2005

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